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NOR146 EPB961

1504 : SPIES--NATO:

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, OCT 30 (REUTERS) -- NATO PLANNERS ARE REDEPLOYING 7,000 TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN HIDDEN SITES AROUND EUROPE AS A RESULT OF THE SPY SCARE SWEEPING WEST GERMANY AND NATO, INFORMED SOURCES SAID TODAY.

THE SOURCES ALSO SAID CODES ARE BEING CHANGED AND NATO SPY CATCHERS ARE RUNNING DISCREET CHECKS ON MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT POLITICAL HEADQUARTERS OUTSIDE BRUSSELS. SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE (SHAPE) NEAR HERE AND AT OTHER INSTALLATIONS.

THE HUNT FOR A SUSPECTED COMMUNIST SPY RING TOOK ON NEW URGENCY AFTER THE ARREST OF NAHIT IMRE, A SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIAL AT NATO, ON SUSPICION OF ESPIONAGE IN SEPTEMBER, AND THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF WEST GERMAN ADMIRAL HERMANN LUEDKE, A FORMER SHAPE LOGISTICS OFFICER. LUEDKE IS SUSPECTED OF HAVING BEEN A SOVIET SPY.

NATO PLANNERS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE ASSUMING THE WORST AND ACTING ACCORDINGLY.

A TOP SECRET REPORT ON THE SPY SCARE WILL BE PRESENTED TO NATO MINISTERS WHEN THEY MEET HERE NOV. 14-16, THE SOURCES SAID.

THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, GREECE AND TURKEY WERE REPORTED COLLABORATING ON THE DOCUMENT.

(AHD) CPM/DS

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1508 : 1ST ADD BRUSSELS SPIES - NATO:

X X X DOCUMENT.

THE SOURCES SAID THE SPY HUNT BEGAN SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE THE PRESENT PUBLIC SCARE. THERE WAS A MARKED INCREASE IN COUNTER-ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES BY BOTH SIDES IN THE MURKY UNDERGROUND EAST-WEST WAR, THEY SAID.

ONE THEORY ADVANCED HERE IS THAT SEVERAL SOVIET SPIES IN WEST GERMANY WERE DELIBERATELY "BLOWN" IN AN ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THE WEST GERMANY SECURITY SERVICES AND DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

BUT IN PRACTICE, THE SCARE HAS INTENSIFIED COLLABORATION BETWEEN WESTERN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES WHICH ARE POOLING INFORMATION ON THE SUSPECTED RING, THE SOURCES CLAIMED.

REUTERS (AHD) CP1/DS

Comment: There is unhappiness in NATO and some of the precaution noted above (code changes and security checks) have been ordered. Panic does not reign, however, and cable traffic is silent on any repositioning of weaponry.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.